

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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AF/E:RBRESLER

AGRIC:JALLEN

COMMERCE:CJOHNSON

STR:RMATTHEISEN

STR:SLANDE

TREASURY:MCHAVES

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R 022332Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MA, EEC

SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR AND REVERSE TRADE PREFERENCES

REF: A. TANANARIVE 781, B. STATE 55671

1. WE ARE CONCERNED BY EMBASSY'S REPORT THAT EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS MAY HAVE USED LOME NEGOTIATIONS (OR OTHER OCCASIONS) TO PERSUADE ACP COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN REVERSE PREFERENCES FOR SOME TIME AFTER LOME CONVENTION RATIFICATION ELIMINATES SUCH REQUIREMENTS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO ECONOMY AND COMMERCE MINISTER LEONARD'S QUERY WHETHER PHASE OUT OF REVERSE PREFERENCES WOULD MEET TRADE ACT REQUIREMENTS (REF A, PARA 4), EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE THAT SECTION 502(B)3 OF THE ACT MAKES NO PROVISION FOR DELAY OF REMOVAL OF SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF REVERSE PREFERENCES BEYOND JAN. 1, 1976.

3. ACCORDINGLY, IF THE GOMR SHOULD DECIDE FOR POLICY REASONS TO DELAY THE ELIMINATION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES, WE WOULD BE OBLIGED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CONTINUED PREFERENCES WOULD HAVE OR BE LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT ON U.S. COMMERCE WITH THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC.

4. REPORT THAT THE EC COMMISSION OR ITS PERSONNEL MAY BE WORKING TO MAINTAIN REVERSE PREFERENCES, ALBEIT ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, IS THE FIRST SUCH INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED. WE WOULD BE SURPRISED (AND TROUBLED) IF THIS REPRESENTS THE POSITION OF THE EC COMMISSION.

5. FOR EC BRUSSELS: MISSION REQUESTED APPROACH EC COMMISSION AND EXPRESS CONCERN OVER REPORTS RECEIVED THAT SOME EC OFFICIALS MAY BE ENCOURAGING ACP COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN REVERSE PREFERENCES AFTER LOME CONVENTION RATIFICATION ELIMINATES THEIR REQUIREMENT. YOU SHOULD INDICATE OUR SURMISE THAT SUCH ENCOURAGEMENT IS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION POLICY.

ASSUMING THAT EC CONFIRMS OUR VIEW, MISSION REQUESTED TO CABLE REPORT OF CLARIFIED EC POSITION ON REVERSE PREFERENCES TO ALL ACP COUNTRIES. IF EC POSITION CANNOT BE CLARIFIED ON THESE TERMS, MISSION SHOULD REPORT SOONEST ON THIS ISSUE. KISSINGER

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